

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington D.C. 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the Chair of the African-American Business Council, I'm writing to encourage you and the FCC to support the elimination of the current unbundling regulations that have hurt the telecommunications industry and the high tech manufacturing sector.

It's obvious to me that the current unbundling rules are not working when I read news reports that more than a half-million jobs have been lost in the telecom industry over the past three years. In addition, telecom companies have cut back on building facilities and infrastructure. Many of the businesses that the African-American Business Council represents rely on these networks in order to operate efficiently. The Bay Area is a high tech area, and is home to many businesses that either utilize high tech telecommunications products or manufacture equipment to support these products. Growth and investment needs to be encouraged in the telecom industry, not stifled.

I support the proposals that are before the FCC that would eliminate unbundled switching and the UNE-P provisions. This would free the way for broadband investment and the deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide -- providing small and large businesses with products and services to make them more efficient and competitive. In addition, new jobs would be created and telecom companies would have the incentive to increase capital spending and investment.

Changing current unbundling rules would be a win-win for consumers and businesses. Please keep that in mind as the FCC moves forward toward a decision in its triennial review process.

Sincerely,

***Anthony W. Rush***

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Martin  
Commissioner Copps